

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

THE EMOTIONS. By JAMES MCCOSH, D. D., LL. D. 12mo, pp. 255. Charles Scribner's Sons.

In treating this branch of the philosophy of mind, while regarding the emotions as essentially psychological or states, the author does not overlook the physiological relations which have been placed in such a powerful light by modern researches into the nature and functions of the nervous system. The mental element which is the conscious element of emotion is described, as in connection with an organic state, the seat of which is in the brain, whence it extends to the nervous centres, and produces soothings or exciting results. But the organic affection, Dr. McCosh maintains, is not the primary nor the main element in emotion properly so called, such as hope and fear, joy and sorrow, reproach and despair. A few words, for example, announce to a man the death of a near friend; the fact impresses upon his mind through the sense of hearing; he feels the emotion of sorrow at the event; and this is followed by the nervous agitation. Emotion is not a mere nervous reaction from a bodily stimulus, like the kick of a frog upon being pricked; but throughout its whole course is essentially an operation of the mind. The different aspects of the phenomenon have usually been considered in their separate action by writers on the subject, but it is one of the merits of the present volume that they are exhibited in their mutual relations and practical unity. In regard to the primary and secondary origin of the emotions in the human constitution, the author engages in an elaborate discussion, which to many readers will prove one of the most instructive, as well as the most interesting, portions of the volume. Dr. McCosh does not agree with the theorists who make the sense of pleasure and of pain the only motives of human conduct. He finds a variety of attractions, or appetencies, such as kindness, sympathy, the love of society, the desire for power, which cannot be explained by the love of pleasure or the aversion to pain. Man, he contends, has a natural inclination to promote the happiness of his fellow-men. This may, indeed, be restrained by an overwhelming selfishness. But in spite of all attempts to repress it, it will at times come forth in some kind word or deed. Besides the instincts which lead us to seek our own good, there are others which incline us to find for our felicity the things which we regard as good for ourselves. The native tastes and talents prompt to action and excite emotion, independent of pleasure or pain, or any other end. This seems true of our organic activity; the animal frisks and gambols, as impelled by a life within its frame; the child is never fatigued; and all our lives long we are impelled to change or move by the organ demand for action. But from the time of Thomas Hobbes, who referred all the actions of men to motives drawn from pleasure and pain, there has been a tendency to diminish the original motive principles of the mind. But the author insists that the secondary appetencies imply primary, and grow upon them as the mistletoe grows upon the oak. They are fashioned by mental rather than by material laws, and cannot be explained by any cerebral conditions. The gap between the animistic and the mechanistic has not yet been filled up. No bridge has yet been found to connect extension with inactivity, matter with mind in activity. The whole subject of the volume is treated by Dr. McCosh in a common sense way, with large reference to its practical applications, aiming at clearness of expression and aptness of illustration, rather than with any show of metaphysical subtlety or technical nicety, and often with uncommon beauty and force of diction. In numerous descriptive passages, which relate to the influence of natural scenery or the finer workings of human character, the writer takes examples from the elder Alison, who was the first among the Scottish philosophers to expound mental phenomena in clear style and with the grace of the imagination. Occasional literary criticisms and opportunity references to the poets and novelists beguile the perusal of the work, and give it a popular as well as a scientific character.

THE THIRTEENTH CENTURY. A HISTORY. By ROBERT MACKENZIE. (Franklin Square Library.) 8vo. pp. 52. Harper & Brothers.

The eventful story of the period which forms the subject of this narrative has perhaps never been related with greater conciseness, and certainly never with greater clearness than by the writer of the present comprehensive work. Commencing with the political and social condition of Europe at the opening of the century, including a compact sketch of the French Revolution, the overthrow of the monarchy, and the accession of Napoleon to the government of France, he proceeds to the history of the First Empire, and the reconstruction of the map of Europe after the fall of the Emperor. The second book embraces the progress of reform in England, the military, civil and social history of the period, the Indian Empire and the Colonies, while the third and last book is occupied mainly with the continental governments, the Papacy, and the United States. In treating of the condition of this country after the civil war, the author comments on the financial relations in encouraging terms, referring to the national debt of six hundred million pounds, most of which was contracted on hard terms, as money was scarce, and the subsequent reduction of the debt to about four hundred millions, with the diminution of the burden by the improved credit to borrow on easier terms. In speaking of the national expenditure, he remarks that "America is the only great power in the world which does not consume the substance of her people by upholding huge military establishments in time of peace." The author presents a brief retrospect of the century, for the most part, from a highly favorable—perhaps in the estimation of the most intelligent readers, too favorable—point of view. He affirms that the condition of the despotism which formerly prevailed over Europe has been rendered forever impossible by the French Revolution, Napoleon, although himself one of the most extreme of despots, sowed revolutionary principles broadcast over the whole Continent. His judicial code taught the equality of man before the law. His overthrow of a multitude of princes roughly shocked the prevailing estimate of the sanctity of crowned heads. He weakened the temporal power, dealt a fatal blow to the privileges of the old feudal nobility, and impeded the lower orders of the people with new ideas regarding their own rights. The Congress of Vienna was blind to these facts, and reconstructed Europe in the interests of monarchs, and reconvened the Diet to avert the revolution. The author, however, is fully aware of the errors of the Diet, and of the fact that the new forces had risen up and grown strong amid the tumult of universal war. Everywhere beside the will of the king was the will of the people. The history of the subsequent half-century is the history of the struggle for popular rights in the nations of Europe. A general victory has been won by the people, and to-day the men of Western Europe govern themselves. Popular suffrage, more or less closely approaching universal, chooses the governing power, and by methods more or less effective determines its policy. The nineteenth century, as its author avers, has witnessed progress beyond all precedent. Never since the mighty impulse communicated by the Christian religion has the condition of man experienced such vast ameliorations. It has seen all that the most ardent reformer can desire, in the removal of artificial obstacles placed in the path of human progress by selfishness and ignorance, and leaving the growth of man's well-being to the benevolent regulation of providential laws. The opinions of the author, which are not officially urged, will challenge more or less influence, according to the prepossessions of the reader, but no one can fail to appreciate the value of the information which is crowded into so brief a space, and set forth in so convenient and attractive a form.

THE LIFE OF ALEXANDER DUFF, D. D., LL. D. By GEORGE SHAW, LL. D. 2 vols. 8vo. A. C. Armstrong & Son.

In a brief introduction to this biography by the Rev. Dr. William Taylor, it is remarked that the subject of it was one of the most eminent of modern missionaries, whose name will go down to posterity with those of William Burns and David Livingstone as the "three mighties" of the noble Scotch hand whose labors in heathen fields have distinguished the present century. His services, especially in the cause of education in India, with the cooperation of Lord Bentinck, Sir Charles Trevelyan, and Lord Macaulay, are related at length in the present volume, together with an account of his influence on the churches of Scotland and America. His eloquence and zeal kindled a strong enthusiasm for the missionary cause, and his admirable personal character was a perpetual sermon of singular power. The fruits of his labors in India, which are described in a prolonged, but highly interesting narrative, present a noble illustration of rare intellectual ability, consummate practical wisdom, almost incredible activity and perseverance, and the spirit of Christian devotion and self-sacrifice, of which there are few parallels in the records of religious biography. Within half a century from the establishment of the Indian mission of which he was the founder, it has been represented by more than 150 Scotch and native missions, and now numbers more than fifty members ordained or licensed to preach the Gospel, besides several medical missionaries, lay professors, evangelists, and students of divinity. The two primary English schools of 1830 at Calcutta and Bombay have become 210 colleges and schools, in which, every year, more than 15,000 youths of both sexes receive daily instruction in religious and secular knowledge. English has become the common language of hundreds of thousands of the educated natives of India and Africa. A Christian literature has been created in their numerous vernaculars based on the translation of the Bible. The converts of the Free Church alone have numbered nearly 7,000 adults, who, with their families, have formed Christian communities, which exert a pure and wholesome influence on the native society around them. No mission can show so many converts from the ranks of educated Hindoo Brahmins in a period of fifty years, in which time the Protestant Christians of India have increased from 27,000 to half a million. Apart from its interest as a narrative of missionary labor and an illustration of Christian character, the present work will command attention by its moral and political details in regard to the condition of India through a long succession of years, including the terrible experience of the great Sepoy Mutiny of 1857, to the perils of which Dr. Duff and his family were especially exposed, though they escaped without harm.

ADDESSSES, SPEECHES, AND MISCELLANIES. By JAMES O. PEYTON, 8vo. pp. 430. Buffalo: Peter Paul & Brother.

The collection of occasional addresses and miscellaneous papers by a distinguished public citizen of Western New-York, contained in this volume, comprises discussions of several of the most prominent political and legal questions during the last twenty-five years, biographical sketches of conspicuous characters in the City of Buffalo, and brief recollections of travels in Spain and other parts of Europe. The work possesses not merely a local and temporary interest, but will form an addition of permanent value to the library of the intelligent reader, on account of the good sense, sound learning, high principle, and literary skill which mark its composition. The leading feature of the volume is the uniform thoroughness of its preparation; no topic is slighted, overdone, or crudely and hastily treated; the writer has taken care to master his materials before presenting the subject to the public; and the result is a work of accurate and lucid thought, polished diction, and attractive execution. The numerous biographies of men eminent for official position, personal ability, and high character, in the different walks of life, will be read with interest as admirable specimens in their kind of clear discrimination and felicitous portraiture. The author, in his address, "The American," exhibits a wide range of taste, and never loses sight of the main object, which is to exalt the personal tend-nodes to obscure his fairness and impartiality.

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